

# OZARK

DECEMBER 1965

*Christmas Special*

A garden is good for you four ways—helps you physically, helps you mentally, helps you morally and helps financially.

# Gardens

## Best Wishes

for a Joyful Christmas

**THE STAFF OF**

## Ozark Gardens

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**GARDENING FOR**

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**ANYTIME**





# Grow Roses Indoors? Certainly! Here's How

**MINIATURE ROSES**, those perfectly proportioned, small-scale versions of garden rose bushes, have such winning ways that even the most hard-boiled skeptic can't resist them.

There is no plant that is completely carefree, but many people believe miniature roses are just too difficult. Actually, they are no more difficult than geraniums; in fact, their needs are nearly the same. Follow these instructions and enjoy tiny rose blossoms:

**TEMPERATURE** is of prime importance. It should be cooler than most homes are in winter — a maximum of 65 degrees, preferably closer to 60. A good spot may be found on the sun porch, an unheated spare room or a hotbed built out from a cellar window.

**HUMIDITY** is very important too, as the air must be neither hot nor dry. Fairly high humidity is vital to keep leaves fresh and buds full of life. Slipping polyethylene tents over the plants at night is often sufficient. Or you may set the pots

on a layer of wet sand or gravel so moisture will evaporate up and around the branches above.

**SUNLIGHT** is another essential ingredient of success. The plants need every available minute of it in winter; a minimum of several hours per day (in early morning or late afternoon) in summer. Without sun you won't have flowers, and without flowers there is little charm.

**MOISTURE** is important, too. Water thoroughly and frequently enough so the soil never dries out. These thirsty plants drop leaves and buds fast in heat and drouth.

**SOIL** can be any average houseplant mixture, with or without a light sprinkling of lime. Regular fertilizing is usually needed to promote bloom but don't overdo it.

**POTS** aren't a problem. The more vigorous varieties are usually content in 5-inch pots. Midgets seldom outgrow 3 or 4-inch pots for several years.

**AVOID PRUNING** except to shorten extra-long stems or remove dead wood and flowers, lest you cut off a blooming branch. Make necessary cuts just above a shoot or leaf bud.

**SUMMER** is the natural flowering season for all roses, but you can have the miniatures in bloom indoors to brighten dark winter days by adjusting the annual growth cycle accordingly. In late spring, set the pots outdoors in light shade, sunk to their rims in soil or mulched to keep them from drying out. Let them rest there through the summer.

Some growers root early fall cuttings for plants to flower indoors the following winter. Or you may give the old plants a short period of necessary dormancy by keeping them very cool — to the point where they drop their leaves — for several weeks. Then bring them inside, repot if necessary, and water sparingly until you see that new leaf buds are peeping out from the stems.

## Ozark Gardens

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POST OFFICE BOX 472  
FREEPORT, ILLINOIS 61033

Published Monthly

**JOHN G. ADNEY**  
Editor and Publisher

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Per Year .....	\$2.50
6 Months .....	\$1.25
2 Years .....	\$4.50
Single Copy .....	25c

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of America**

## Mums Will Last 3 Weeks in Pots

The chrysanthemums, cyclamen, kalanchoe, and poinsettia make attractive potted plants. Chrysanthemums last about three weeks.

The others can be saved for another blooming next year. Kalanchoe blooms again in late winter or early spring if early winter flowers are removed soon after they wilt. Remove all old leaves too.

Check the foil around the pot to be sure it has a drainage opening. Keep a saucer under the pot to collect excess water.



# Tender Living Care—for CHRISTMAS plants!

**DELIGHT** over a blooming Christmas gift will turn to keen disappointment if you don't know how to give it proper care. And you may feel resentful—unjustifiably so—if you mistakenly believe all plants should live on indefinitely, as do many foliage plants.

Some seasonal flowering plants must be looked upon as if they were cut flowers, to be enjoyed while they last, then discarded when they fade. Some plants we often give or receive can't live long except under greenhouse conditions, so different from the desert-like atmosphere of most homes in winter.

Most gift plants will last longer in your home if you give them a cool, bright location and plenty of water of a room temperature. Blasts of cold air are unwelcome, too.

You may use flowering plants as decorations in spots unsuitable as longtime "homes" but move plants back to a more congenial location when they have served their temporary purposes as centerpieces or as other decorations.

Here are some hints for Christmas plants requiring special care:

**POINSETTIAS** in red, pink and white are the holiday favorites. Keep in warm, draft-free spot. After colorful bracts fall off, keep it for another season by placing in a cool location and watering only occasionally. When warm weather comes, cut stems back to no more than 8 inches, set in garden in sunny

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Roses of Antiquity*

Our collection of old roses includes most wanted varieties. Send for our **FREE CATALOG**.

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\*\*\*\*\*

location. Bring indoors before frost.

A bloom-laden **AZALEA** will keep its show for many weeks if kept in good light, fairly cool location. Keep moist; be sure to check soil daily but don't saturate with water. Once blooming ends, you'll probably have to discard it (although some people, unlike your editor, can keep these gift azaleas from year to year), unless you live in an area with mild winters. In that case, set it outdoors in spring, handling as any sun-loving shrub.

**THE CHRISTMAS BEGONIA**, with plenty of water, will bloom for weeks. When through, discard it. The lush growth comes from energy stored in the plant grown under hothouse conditions. When that has been exhausted the plant is generally too weak to repeat its flowery show.

**JERUSALEM CHERRY** likes sun, ample moisture to stay attractive for several months. To grow your own, save the "cher-

ries" as they drop off and dry them. Early in spring, plant seeds in pots indoors. When danger of frost passes, sink pots in sunny garden. Bring indoors before cold weather.

**ORNAMENTAL PEPPERS** may be handled much the same way as Jerusalem cherry.



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## **Dolphin Eye Drops**

Mrs. Margaret Guelig, Theresa, Wis., writes:

"Enclosed find check for \$5 for which please send me 2 bottles of Dolphin Eye Drops. I hadn't realized I was running so low while on vacation and I do not want to be without them as I use my eyes doing plenty of knitting and reading.

"I use the drops morning and night and find them priceless. I had an infection in my right eye. I used several prescriptions but got very little relief. Dolphin Eye Drops did the trick, for which I shall be forever grateful."

There is nothing I need add to this letter except that I will send you a generous bottle for only . . .

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**EDITH BESTARD**

Eureka Springs, Ark. 72632

## **Coleus: Bright Winter Plant**

By **MAXINE BOTTS**  
Levittown, Pa.

**MY PET** winter plant is coleus.

A packet of mixed seeds can surprise you beyond your wildest expectations as you never know what hues of the rainbow will come up — pale green leaves with a deeper green border, pink with a green border, maybe a deep bronze or red or even some with spotted leaves. The variations seem endless.

I plant seeds in November in a mixture of garden soil and peatmoss. This provides me with a window filled with these beauties. The riot of color gives one's spirits a lift when coming in from the cold, dreary outside.



# A letter from the PUBLISHER

## We Will Miss Them

WITH A SAD HEART I announce that two longtime OG writers have been forced, for personal and health reasons, to give up their columns.

They are E. Grove Teaney (Cactus Pappy's Western Notes) and Ethlyn E. Goff (It Seems to Me.)

Pappy's final column is in this issue. Ethlyn's last column was in the November issue.

I hate to see these fine people leave the OG staff (they will still be readers, of course) as their columns were very popular. I hope they will be able to write for us at least once in awhile.

Here is a portion of a letter recently received from Ethlyn: "Dear John: Please accept my apologies. I am forced to

do what I was sure I wouldn't do, come what may. Family responsibilities have become so great that I have no time for myself, so I must forego 'It Seems to Me', for a while at least. I shall miss it as it was a pleasure and a release from daily tasks. My best wishes to you and our beloved OG."

It was with regret that I received Ethlyn's letter, which said that illnesses in her family have claimed all of her time. I am sure she would appreciate hearing from you.

Pappy announces his decision in this month's Western Notes. I had no advance warning and it was quite a shock when I got to that part of his column where he states this is his last.

Pappy said his doctor told

him to take it easy. An OG writer for over 9 years (OG is 12 years old), he will be greatly missed.

The ending of two popular columns at a time when OG is experiencing "growing pains," including a change in format, is felt doubly hard by your editor. The loss of these fine columns does not make my job easier. As I continue to bolster OG, which I have attempted to do since I took over in July, I hope I will be able to find replacements to merit the interest and confidence Pappy and Ethlyn have enjoyed through the years.

On a brighter note, I am happy to announce that circulation is growing and that the Subscription Contest is off to a good start.

—John

## Flowers 'n' Things



By MARY BOATRIGHT  
721 W. Poplar  
Harrisburg, Ill. 62946

DECEMBER is the hardest month to write a garden column.

Everyone's mind is on the holidays. Summer and flowers seem so very far away. However, the gardeners who grow houseplants have an edge on winter: we can have so many beautiful flowers the winter-through.

Right now it is time to enjoy poinsettias. I can't imagine a Christmas without them. I start several cuttings of each color. Then when the blooms begin to open I set them in a large, round urn-shaped planter, with the tall red ones in the center (usually about three), then a row of white and then pink. This is a living flower arrangement that will be a thing

of beauty until almost spring if kept in a cool, moist place with some sunshine.

Jerusalem cherries are also a pretty winter plant. The red and white ardisas are a real favorite with me. The berries hang on all winter.

Then with oranges, lemons and kumquats ripening and the geraniums, begonias and sultanas a riot of blooms, we can't mourn Miss Summertime's departure too much. Anyway, she'll be coming back soon.

ALL MY PLANTS are so much prettier than I ever had them before. I give the credit to the soil-less culture to which I am a firm convert. I don't have one bit of soil in my greenhouse or house. I use a mixture of one-third perlite,

two-thirds black peat with bone-meal and superphosphate added. Everything from African violets to the fruit trees grow in this mixture, except the cactus; they grow in pure sand.

It is amazing how much better everything grows and blooms. I potted my collection of fancy leaf and dwarf geraniums in this mixture, but only until I could get some soil for them. They are growing and blooming like I never had them to before. So as long as they are content, I am too. Perhaps a little lime worked into the top of the mixture would be beneficial, and I am going to try it. I sure don't intend to worry and sterilize soil again. I always worry about the nematode problem in dirt.

I WISH all of you a MERRY CHRISTMAS. May God bless each of you!

**MORE TO COME NEXT MONTH  
DON'T MISS IT!**

# Growing the Stapeloids

By FLORENCE M. RODDY

1200 S. Forest St.

Denver, Colorado 80222

## THE OUTDOOR GARDEN

enthusiast, as a rule, continues the labor of love through the winter months with an indoor garden, which may consist of scattered houseplants, a special window garden, or a small hobby greenhouse.

These houseplants may be of the simple and proven type, the unusual or the strange and exotic.

The stapeloids, those fantastic twig-like plants with star-shaped flowers, are of the latter category. They consist of a group of over 400 species, beautiful, unusual, and bizarre; truly one of nature's wonderful curiosities.

On seeing the stapeloid plant in flower for the first time many remark that they look like a star-shaped brooch, a tropical butterfly, or a piece of delicate porcelain. These impromptu expressions do describe these unusual flowers because of the color and shape of the flowers are unique. Some are delicate pastels, while others are of striking yellows, oranges, blacks, and reds. Some are quite small; others exceed 12 inches in diameter. All are of the five-lobed star-shaped design.

The plants also vary in color. Some are plain green; many are mottled in various shades of green, blue, purple, or red.

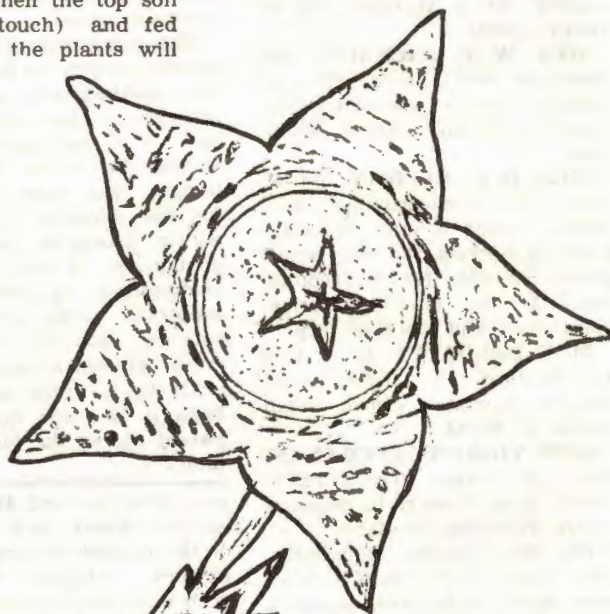
Most of the stapeloids are natives of Africa, a few are from the Canary Islands, India and the European mainland.

**CULTURE** is not difficult in the hobby greenhouse or window garden. Planted in sand to normal soil mixture and placed in partial or lightly filtered sun, with normal amount of water (watered thoroughly and repeated when the top soil is dry to the touch) and fed once a month, the plants will

respond beautifully.

Cuttings taken from many of the stapeloid family will root and bloom the same season. *Stapelesarenost* is one of these. Its flowers are red-brown with a yellow network in color, and range from 1 to 3 inches in diameter, each bloom lasting almost a week, blooming from mid-summer through the winter.

**TO OWN ONE** stapelaid is only the beginning of the hobby of growing this unusual plant. They are so interesting that you



will want to browse the garden shops for other varieties. Truly they are one of nature's most wonderful curiosities of the plant world!



# HELP!

**MRS. THOMAS E. SMITH**, 707 S. 85th St., Birmingham, Ala., 35206, would like to know where she may purchase ornamental pepper seeds.

**MRS. KAY STANKO**, Rt. 4, Tofield, Alberta, Canada, would like to obtain sempervivums (hen and chickens). "I am very interested in them and would like to collect as many different varieties as I can."

**MRS. JAMES LAWER**, Colonial Dr., Prospect, Conn., is looking for a trumpet lily or *Datura* plant.

**MRS. W. C. ZACHARY**, 3256 Seminole Ave., Macon, Ga., is looking for a red daisy-type chrysanthemum called *Kashima*.

**MRS. H. C. ELLIOTT**, 624 W. 30th St., Connerville, Ind., 47331, wants a start of white partridgeberries or any small plants suitable for terrariums. She had red partridgeberries, spleenwort and rainbow fern.

**M. C. BALDAUFF**, Rt. 3, Box 15, Wexford, Pa. 15090, would like to purchase crown vetch plants or seeds.

**MISS VIRGINIA BUCHANAN**, Box 225, Leakey, Texas 78873, sends these answers to requests of the following readers:

For Mrs. Helen Dougherty, Fall River Mills, Calif.: Nursery stock of *Sophora japonica* (Japanese Pagoda) can be obtained from Spring Hill Nurseries, Tipp City, Ohio, in three different sizes. Seed is offered by Seeds of the World, W. J. Brudy, 113 Aucila Rd., Cocoa Beach, Fla. 32931.

For Opal Stork, Stratford, Ia.: *Hoya obavatus* may be obtained from Johnson Cactus Gardens, Paramount, Calif. 90724. (They will gladly send their price list for 10c.)

For Robert D. Wagner, Jefferson City, Mo.: There are various hybrids of the Boweri begonia — *Bow-arriola*, *Bow-Ni-*



## ALL ABOUT BEGONIAS

By **DAISY AUSTIN**  
1510 Kimberly Ave.  
Anaheim, Calif. 92802

**CHRISTMAS DID NOT** forget the Begonias, neither in name nor color.

B. Merry Christmas, a rex, has all the reds and greens of the holiday season in its beautiful foliage. Christmas Cheer, a semperfloren, is both a red and a pink. Christmas Candle, also a semperfloren, is a double nearly red. While Christmas Pearl and Christmas Red are of the hiemalis strain.

The wonderful Christmas begonias, grown to perfection in our northeastern and central sections of the United States, will be at their peak of bloom during the winter months and florists will have them ready for the holiday trade. These winter blooming tuberous begonias are of two types: the cheimantha, a cross between socotrana and dregei, both species, and the hiemalis, a cross between socotrana and an unknown tuberous species. Perhaps it is from this unknown parent comes the hard to grow factor.

gra, Bow-Joe and Bow-choncu. All are dwarf with reflections of the eyelash edging and pink flowers. Mophil (Cleopatra) with star-shaped leaves is also a Boweri seedling. May be purchased from Tropical Paradise Greenhouses, 8825 W. 79th St., Overland Park, Kans.; Merry Gardens, Camden Me.; Logee's Greenhouses, 55 North St., Danielson, Conn.

For Mrs. Guy C. Hitchcock who requested information on controlling chipmunks: Several companies which produce various garden products now have dog, cat and rabbit repellents which are not poisonous and will probably work on chipmunks. You might also try mothballs.

**TO SAVE** these mature plants over from year to year is very hard to do. Instead they are usually propagated by leaf or tip cuttings. A leaf with stem is inserted in a starting medium to within clearance of the leaf blade. Vermiculite is an excellent starting medium for leaves or begonia stem cuttings. A stem cutting of the hiemalis strain roots best if a small part of the main stem can be left attached to the leaf stem, known as a heel cutting. Supply bottom heat if possible, keep medium moist but not wet and maintain a temperature in the 70 to 75 degree range. Both types will send up basal growth and this should be kept tip pinched to promote a bushy plant. Leaves are round of a bright green while the smaller flowers are single through double and in all the colors of the larger tuberous varieties.

To all of us who have never been able to bring these begonias through growth and into bloom, let's not give up because they are so worth any effort put forth!

**MY BEGONIA HAT** is indeed off to all of you who through necessity must grow your plants entirely within your homes. You are the REAL growers. You have the real love of house plants that many of the other growers have lost when they assigned their plants to outdoor living.

The four main conditions to consider when growing indoors are heat, humidity, light and fertilizing. Not necessarily in that order but each is dependent upon the other and in the proper amounts of each. Most of us keep our homes entirely too warm. Heating units, such

*continued*





By  
**MARGARET DRAKE ELLIOTT**  
"Ag-Kaa-Noo-Ma-Gaa-Qua"  
1513 Nelson St.  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

**DECEMBER.** There is a charm about this month that no other month has for it brings the happiest of the year's festivals, Christmas.

Back in the dim, dark days of antiquity there was rejoicing at the winter solstice, when days began to lengthen the least little bit and then day by day more light came.

Those who grow and use

herbs are among the lovers of December because there are so many ways that herbs help in the winter holidays.

More and more time is spent in the kitchen during the early part of the month, preparing for the festive days ahead.

Cookies flavored with herb seeds are among the numerous delicacies planned. There is almost no end to the variety

that find their way into the bulging cookie jars and chests now. The Scandinavians, Germans, Pennsylvania Dutch, Polish and Slavs have their favorite recipes and almost all use herbs and spices in these holiday goodies. Sandtarts, springerles, ginger cookies, lebkuchen and kris kringles are only a few of these holiday treats.

**A CHRISTMAS COOKIE PARTY** is an event a number of our friends look forward to about the middle of the month. Each person attending bakes and takes a good supply of her favorite cookies and then at the "party" they are displayed on decorated tables. The hostess provides holiday boxes or plates and each person goes around choosing cookies and

*continued*

## ALL ABOUT BEGONIAS *continued*

as radiators and electrical units seem to be invariably placed beneath the windows with the best light exposures. Turn down the heat, if you can, to 60 to 75 degrees for daytime; lower by 10 degrees for night, and the family freezes. Turn the temperature higher and the plants cook.

If you can determine a way to offset the hot air from the radiators and cooking the leaves and roots of your plants, cold outside air from freezing the leaves nearest the window at night and fresh air from the outside to circulate among your plants, then the windows over the radiators are ideal places.

**HUMIDITY:** You need it and so do your plants. Your skin dries from the lack of moisture in the air; so do the leaves of plants. If a plant loses more moisture or more rapidly through its leaves than it can replace from its roots and moisture in the air, it soon becomes soft and limp, followed by complete collapse of the plant. Much the same happens to people lost in a desert region.

For your plants you can provide pebble trays and fill to several inches with small gravel, sponge rock, or perlite. Keep this filled to top of gravel with water. Place inverted bulb pots in this and set plants on these. Make groupings of your plants as it also helps to retain the humidity around them. An inexpensive humidifier that gives good results is the type often used in sick rooms and as vaporizers for children when treating cold congestion. These hold amounts of water from a pint to a gallon. Use as many times per day as you wish but remember they are not automatic and you will have to watch for all water to be used.

**LIGHT:** If sunlight, it should be filtered by a curtain. A bamboo screen is very good. If your area does not admit sufficient light, have you tried growing under fluorescent lights? This is a very fascinating growing field in itself. Sufficient light is necessary for healthy, compact growth.

**BASIC RULES** in fertilizing are: Less than the specified

amounts but regularly instead of a lot now and then.

Never after repotting plants or seedlings or when in dormancy. Water first, wait and then feed before soil again becomes dry lest the feeder roots become damaged beyond repair.

Never when a plant looks sick unless it is from food deficiency and then in small amounts until you can return to regular feeding schedule. The basic foods for begonias are nitrogen, phosphorous and potash. (Please note, the above is for begonias in general and does not cover conditions for those requiring special growing conditions.)

**SOCIETY NEWS:** I would like to give you portions of the aims and purposes of the American Begonia Society. If these could be followed by all of us, would it not be a better world?

To promote interest in begonias and other shade loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.



## HERB CORNER

*continued*

filling her boxes. This is a cheery, friendly way to get a large variety with baking only two or three kinds. This type of holiday event has become quite popular here.

These are the days when bazaars are popular. Churches and clubs frequently sponsor these. Herb gifts of various sorts are always welcome and seem to be well accepted by the patrons. Small glass or plastic containers of cooking herbs such as basil, marjoram, summer savory, rosemary, oregano, mint and thyme are popular.

Small bunches of dried herbs wrapped in cellophane are snapped up eagerly. Herbs that lend themselves particularly well to this are sage, tarragon, horehound, lavender and thyme. The mints should be packaged in larger containers than the others for mint tea. We like to mix red rose petals with ours at the holiday season to give it a festive color combination.

Do not forget the pets at this season. Small packets of catnip go well at these sales. These may all be attractively packaged with ribbons, bows, and bells to add to their holiday spirit.

**HERB MIXES** are welcome, too, and combinations of the fine herbs, bouquet garni and salad herbs are among the best.

Little novelties like lavender sticks, dried costmary for bookmarks, and envelopes of herb seeds for cookies, and, of course, dainty little sachets are just a few of the ways in which the herbalist can have fun prior to the holiday season as he prepares for the gift-giving ceremony.

Herb jellies and vinegars are well liked (and expected) by many of our friends. Little potted plants for the kitchen window garden are favorites with garden-loving friends with green thumbs.

There is almost no end to the herb gifts the ingenious can devise during the winter when there is time to think.

There are no prettier wreaths at the Christmas season in my humble estimation than those made of herbs. If you have never tried one do it this year. They are so fragrant as well as decorative that you, too, will be delighted with them.

**EACH MONTH** we aim to mention one or two herbs a little more in detail, and for December you have probably guessed it.

It's yarrow for Halloween, sage for Thanksgiving, and now rosemary and bay for Christmas.

Bay and rosemary have been represented among our Christmas plants from time immemorial. An ancient writer says: "Rosemarie and baies that are most faire were stuck about the houses and the churches at the time of Christmas."

According to tradition it was the bay tree, with its lance-like leaves and purple berries, that sheltered the Holy Family during a thunderstorm. Accordingly it was believed that lightning would never strike a bay tree and many people took its branches and leaves into their home at Christmastide as a protection against misfortune.

Although an entirely different plant the bay of our New England states, from which bayberry candles are made, has had attributed to it many of the charms and protective qualities of the Old World plant. The little verse that accompanies pairs of bayberry candles in boxed gifts attests to this. Christmas does not seem quite right to us without a pair of these delicately fragrant candles on our mantle.

The association of the rosemary plant with Christmas goes far back to the early childhood of our Lord, to the flight into Egypt to escape the wrath and jealousy of King Herod. Its branches are said to have held the small garments of the

## The Hopa Crab Apple

By MRS. PAT HUNTLEY  
Craigmont, Idaho

**MY "HOPA"** flowering crab apple is a joy all year! High and summer frost affect its altitude, deep snow, late spring beauty not at all.

In spring its lovely rose-red blossoms form a cloud of color noticed by all visitors and passers-by. In summer its graceful form and attractive foliage add beauty to my garden's background, and lilies and pansies flourish beneath its shade. In fall its branches are laden with little gleaming red apples that make delicious jelly. Fruit left on the tree attracts birds in winter.

**ABLAZE** with red and gray pine grosbeaks feeding happily, my tree is a glorious sight that brightens many a cold winter day. If our winter birds aren't too greedy, a few apples will hang on the branches to provide food for the first robin in spring.

Come planting time I must set out more trees to accommodate our feathered friends and make our world more beautiful.

Christ Child that were placed on it by Mary, His mother. Originally its flowers were supposed to have been white but the plant changed the color of its blossoms to bluish lavender so that they might bear the hue of Mary's cloak and the plant took on a "divine fragrance" which it had not known before.

And, so it is for untold centuries rosemary and bay have had a part in the Christmas festival and doubtless again this year there will be the fragrance or rosemary and bay in decorations and in the kitchen as both these herbs are added to the holiday menu.

**MAY YOUR HOLIDAY** be merry—a blessed season of rejoicing for one and all—and may your New Year be bright!



# ROCK GARDEN

By MADALENE MOULTON  
Route 1, Box 162  
Sewickley, Pa. 1514.

**WE BUILT** a new rock garden in October.

When we came here 26 years ago we knew little about landscaping. We wanted shade on the bare hillside so we planted trees, not always in the right places.

My father gave me two Russian mulberry trees, saying "You will need these for the birds so they will not eat your cherries."

A couple of years later we built a pool right below the mulberry tree, never thinking of the problem that the fruit would make. Now it is a large tree and compensates for the mess the fruit makes by shading a large area.

For years I have had *Primulas*, *polemonium* and *trilliums* above the pool. I grew so many *primulas* from seed this year that I needed a place for them.

**IT IS ALWAYS** too cold and wet here to do much work outside in early spring. We live on a hillside. When we are on the road, we walk up and at the house we say we will walk down. It is always up to the garden and down to the rock garden.

As I was walking to the house one day I thought as I looked up at the pool: That is a good place for my *primulas*. I could just extend the *primula* bed beyond the Russian mulberry tree. It's a gentle slope and there would be room for at least a hundred *primulas*.

Then we had to hunt rocks, which isn't always easy. The rocks were finally set but the soil is to be mixed and filled in between the rocks. Then we will leave it until spring.

The soil will consist of garden soil, peat and leafmold. We have some old rotted hardwood sawdust and we may use some

of this, too. If we think it needs sand, we will add some. We want to get some old rotted cow manure at my sister's, for *primulas* do well in rich soil.

**I WILL SET** the *primroses* out in early spring and there should be some bloom.

I liked this spot very much so I put in bulbs of *Chionodoxa luciliae*, *Scilla sibirica* and *snowdrops* along the edge.

Over near the hemlocks on the north will be a nice place for ferns.

Instead of having my European ginger over the hill, I can have some among the *primulas* as I can see them from my kitchen window.

**SO EACH DAY** I think of what could grow there until I have it overflowing in no time at all.

I could put *Claytonia Virginica*, the spring beauty, there as it always grows among the tree roots in shade.

I have always wanted a yellow lady's slipper. It will grow under deciduous trees so could grow there.

*Helleborus*, the Christmas rose, might do well there, too.

I think I will bring *Galax aphylla* from over the hill—also *Shortia* (*Oconee* bells)—so that I may see them from my kitchen window.

I am sure *Potentilla tridentata* would do better there than where I have it now.

**IT IS STRANGE** how one stays away from the shaded garden. Too often we think only of the sun.

I will find a place for *Hypoxis hirsuta*. It likes sandy soil in open woods so I will find a place for it.

This place will need watering in summer as it is under the mulberry tree and hemlocks not far away. It will more than compensate for all the watering

in being so close to the house, enabling me to see the flowers from my kitchen window.



## HOLY NIGHT

The Magi on that night so long ago  
Brought gifts of myrrh and frankincense and gold.  
Kneeling before the Infant in the fold  
They worshipped. Their crowned heads bent low;  
The signal star shone from the sky above,  
The kindly beasts in sweet humility,  
Wide-eyed looked upon the Holy Family  
Where all about there glowed the warmth of Heavenly love.  
The scent of strewing herbs rose from below;  
Small green things sent their fragrance all around  
Mingled with costly perfume; from the ground  
Strange wondrous flowers bloom that were so  
Beauteous they were unknown to all the Earth.  
Lo! All nature joined in reverence at the Christ-Child's humble birth.

—Margaret D. Elliott



# Readers'



# Mailbox

(Many readers have requested a "Letters to the Editor" column. We introduce it here, publishing portions of some of the most interesting letters received recently.)

Dear Editor: You have ruined OG by changing the format. It has now become just another organizational paper. The charm is gone. Once I could not wait for it to arrive. Now it is just another paper to burn. As my subscription has run out and I have all the burning papers I need, please don't send me Ozark Gardens any more. I shall miss it very much but not as the paper you are putting out.—Mrs. Anthony Martin, Brilliant, Ohio.

Dear Editor: Keep up the good work. Best wishes—Kathryn Rezek, Algoa, Tex. (Mrs. Rezek sent me a very nice greeting card which is greatly appreciated.—JGA.)

Dear Editor: What is wrong with chit-chat as long as it is informative and interesting? It is to be regretted that some have saw fit to cancel subscriptions because of some changes. I agree that changes are necessary if OG is to be kept alive and to prosper. Whatever turn OG takes I'll follow as best I can.—Ethel B. Karr, Canon City, Colo.

(Ethel, an OG contributor, and others have asked in letters why I am against "chit-chat". I mentioned this in the October issue but thought I made it clear that I am NOT against "chit-chat" except when it has nothing to do with gardening. I shall continue to strive to

make OG informal, entertaining—and informative.—JGA.)

Dear Editor: I enjoy OG very much. It really is a dirt gardener's bible. I have one gripe: I wish it was put together in a smaller page size. It would be easier to handle and to file. Now that Freeport has a part in OG I feel close to it. Wishing you success.—Mrs. Ira Hartman, Rochelle, Ill. (Mrs. Hartman's letter was one of many received before I decided to switch to the magazine format.—JGA.)

Dear Editor: It is a pleasure to inform you that you have been accepted for membership in the Garden Writers Association of America. We recently studied two issues of OG very carefully and viewed it from a great many angles. It was our feeling that something very much worthwhile can be made out of this paper and we feel you have the ability to make this a success. Our greatest dislike is an on-the-fence attitude one gets when reading some of the articles. Then, too, we can see no need for so much "chit-chatting" among one another. We all have troubles enough without publicizing them and making John's broken arm or Mary's stroke the center of attraction in what is supposed to be a horticultural magazine. The only way you are going to increase your subscriptions is to have something each month dealing with the true facts of the various fields of horticulture.—Mrs. Gladys Reed Robinson, Troy, N. Y. (Membership chairman, GWAA.)

Dear Editor: OG has been my favorite garden magazine, except when the former owner would put in a lot about the evils of vivisection which sickened me and should not have a place in a publication of this type. Some ads, too, were unpleasantly close to old wives tales and patent medicine. I have always disliked the newspaper form and the off-white paper. There are those of us who like to read it but are ashamed of its looks. I am sure the magazine format, plus your additions, would be much nicer.—Mrs. W. A. Malone, Shenandoah, Iowa.

Dear Editor: I like OG and its informality. I do feel it should offer more and wider gardening experiences. Yes, a little chit-chat is good but most dedicated gardeners want to hear of other gardener's experiences—their successes and failures. I believe you are on the right track. The article, "Blind Lawyer Gardens by Heart" (October) was very interesting.—Florence M. Roddy, Denver, Colo.

Dear Editor: I just love OG and you are doing a fine job. I hope you don't raise the subscription price or the poor people like myself won't be able to afford it. I like OG as it is. A magazine form might be nice but it would probably cost more and you would then raise the price. That's what happened to Joe's Bulletin. It used to come out on newspaper material like OG but then it went to shiny white paper and the price went up, as did the cost of advertising and the advertisers then increased their prices. Please don't let OG down.—Mrs. Beatrice Ressler, Camphill, Pa.

(No subscription price hike is planned.—JGA.)

Dear Editor: I would like to see OG in a magazine format. I liked the old Little Gardener  
*continued*



# the final issue

Dear Subscribers and Advertisers:

The above headline, in short tells the story: Ozark Gardens is suspending publication WITH THIS ISSUE!

I do not take joy in writing this announcement (it is written after long deliberation and after receiving this issue from the printer). It is, however, one that I have feared would come for the past couple of months as I have attempted to keep OG going.

The reasons for suspending publication are:

1: I have not been feeling well and have been given additional duties to my fulltime job, which must come first. It has been nearly impossible recently for me to devote the time necessary to publish, and promote, OG.

2: Production costs continue to exceed income, forcing OG into deficit spending each issue. This problem is certainly faced by all publications, large and small, but is mostly felt by small ones such as OG. But not always, as some huge magazines had, in recent years, to "go under" for lack of sufficient revenue. (Let's face facts: the printing industry is expensive!)

3: The unavailability of a printer who would set type and print OG on schedule each month. Over the years, this problem has forced the former owner as well as myself to publish OG late each month, and this contributed to the lack of adequate revenue. Often I would not get the type set for an issue until the particular month was half over; and, as far as the November issue was concerned, it was late in arriving because it was not mailed for a couple of weeks after it was printed! (I have not handled the mailing myself).



To more fully explain the first reason, I was named a news editor of the local daily newspaper shortly before I purchased OG in July. Recently, my work has been increased as news coverage is expanded. During this time I have been somewhat ill, off and on, and this has slowed me down and made the pressures of my job and OG worse. As OG has not been my means of "bread and butter" I had to devote, of course, much time and loyalty to my job, sacrificing OG. I am better now but my newspaper work will not lessen and I do not have the time necessary to devote to OG. Opportunities for the future in newspaper work are such that I cannot afford to devote less time to my job.

The second, and very important, reason for ending publication is finances. OG's revenue has not been adequate; has not kept up with production costs. Income, except for my second issue, has been considerably less than that needed (the cost to put out OG is approximately \$250 per month) and I have been forced to pay a great deal of this out of my own pocket each month. I cannot continue to do this as I don't have this kind of money floating around, what with a growing family to support (including a young son who, it seems, is often more sick than well).

As of now, OG is a little more than \$350 in debt due to insufficient advertising and subscription revenue, and because I have not been able to pay OG's bills out of my own pocket recently. I cannot justify continued expense when OG is far from paying its own way, and I have more pressing family financial demands to meet.

I did not purchase OG expecting to get rich. However, I did believe it was a profitable publication with a certain amount of paid circulation. Since taking over OG I have found it otherwise. Circulation is considerably less than that claimed by the former owner; so is advertising income.

Paid circulation now stands at 1,350—not the 1,600 claimed by Mrs. Bestard before I purchased OG. The 1,350 figure includes the approximately 200 paid subscribers to the former Little Gardener, which I published and merged with OG, plus about 50 new subscribers I have added since July. (I must point out here that the Little Gardener circulation was 2,000; I mailed hundreds of copies free of charge each month to attract new subscribers and to give advertisers



wider circulation.) After the legal notice of OG's ownership and circulation, required by the Federal Government, was published in the October issue (the notice claimed 1,800 paid circulation), I discovered the total was off by some 500. This shocked me, not only because I had purchased OG with the understanding that it had a higher paid circulation, but because I could get in trouble with the Post Office Department for claiming a false circulation figure (in other words, fraud). This, coupled with the fact that revenue has never been what the former owner claimed, gave me doubts about OG's true condition as a business. I purchased OG in good faith, without going to the former owner's Arkansas home for an on-the-spot check before the purchase agreement.

I have discovered that the former owner had asked the publisher of another small gardening magazine to purchase OG. He declined, and later told me in a letter that he had some doubts about OG and expressed some strong comments about previous advertising and subscription deals with OG, before my purchase. Whether these comments are correct, I do not know but I feel this other publisher was the wiser for not purchasing OG.

Any publication worth its salt will grow considerably, especially in the 12-year span OG has had. While I realized the claimed 1,600 circulation was not very high for a 12-year-old publication I believed there was a good future for OG. Little Gardener's growth rate was much higher in the year it was published before merging with OG.

I have tried my best to provide the friendly, informative garden guide desired by most of you. I believe OG's lack of growth over the years is due to the lack of informative articles for gardeners and too much "chit-chat" about some things not gardening-related. Most readers, though not all, have agreed with my approach and the changes made in OG.

I have spent many late-night hours (often to 3 a.m.) working to improve and expand OG, and I have poured a good share of my personal income into it. In an effort to reduce expenses I switched from the old tabloid newspaper format to the offset-printed magazine format. This meant doubled increase in work for me as I took on more duties myself to



reduce costs. This extra work on my part has not proved to be the solution, however, as expenses continue to exceed revenue. For professional, health and family reasons, I cannot continue to expend such time or money into what has been an unsuccessful business.

One thing I have happily learned: There are many nice people in this world—many of them gardeners! It is often said that gardeners are friendly, helpful, understanding. This is 99% true. The other 1%? Well, you should see some of the abusive letters received from some OG readers, complaining about the lateness of arrival each month or the changes made (the most abusive letters concern the latter). Many people were understanding, but some letters were absolutely shocking, such as this one which said: "I think you are doing a terrible thing to OG. It will probably die before you do but I hope you die first."

OG will die before I do, but I hope you will understand why. If I sound bitter it is not that I am mad at Mrs. Bestard or at the nasty letter-writers. I am bitter because I must suspend publication; to me it means I have failed you.

Had I known all the problems that beset OG I would have not purchased it. In addition to low circulation and ad revenue, OG had a bad mailing problem. In addition to lateness, many subscribers often did not get their copies because address plates at the printer's were lost; or, in the case of some new subscribers, were never made at all! Some people went as much as five months without receiving OG when I thought they were getting it all the time (I did not mail OG).

I have made an attempt to explain this sorrow-filled decision. I hope you will understand, and will forgive. In closing, I must say that I appreciate, very much, the fine efforts of OG's regular contributors. I will miss these people.

I had previously warned Mrs. Bestard that this decision might come, so it will be less of a shock to her than to the rest of ~~new~~. She has told me that she cannot continue OG. I have approached a few other potential publishers, with no luck. And so, I sadly write...THE END.

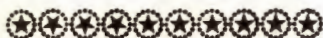


# Mailbox

continued

best as it arrived in better shape and was easier to handle. Please send me 100 circulars for the subscription contest.—Mrs. Betty Taylor, Fern Creek, Ky.

Dear Editor: I feel you are doing a wonderful job and think it fortunate that Mrs. Bestard was able to sell OG to you. I think a magazine would be preferable to the newspaper.—Mrs. Irene B. Poston, Flint Hill, Va.

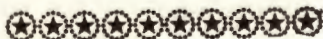


## GIFT IDEAS

SEND A PRETTY handmade 1966 calendar instead of a Christmas card! Christmas greeting cover and 6 pages of dates and illustrations. 30c for sample postpaid plus list of handmade Christmas stationery. HELEN M. HOUSEMAN, 2409-OG Simpson, Evanston, Ill. 60201.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS**—Beautiful cracked marble-penants, white rose or green, \$1. Oregon agates, all colors, penants, \$1. P. I. MOECKER, 10721 N. E. Sandy, Portland, Ore. 97220.

**CROCHET CHRISTMAS** wreath lapel pin 20c, dozen \$2. Same with bell, 25c, dozen \$2.50. Crochet wool nose warmer and protector, dandy for cold weather—(mention favorite colors), 50c. Decorations: small felt flowers, butterflies (all colors), dozen 10c, gross \$1. Book, "How to Make Handmade Greetings for Fun and Profit," \$1.25. Send 5c stamp for list of handmade gifts, novelties, stationery; also rubber stamps and books. ELIZABETH KAUFFMAN, Conewango Valley, N. Y. 14726.



## Cactus Pappy's Western Notes



By E. GROVE TEANEY

"Cactus Pappy"

114 Natal Way  
Vista, Calif. 92083

**WHAT A BIRTHDAY** I had! Received 97 cards and several lovely gifts, and 3 birthday cakes. Seems as though each birthday gets better. To you wonderful readers of OZARK GARDENS who sent me so many birthday greetings, I'll just say THANKS SO MUCH, and may God bless you all.

Thanks to Annie Hicklin of Mountain View, Ark., an OG reader, I received a lot of hand pollinated daylily seed. In return I sent her some of my choice bearded iris seed. It's people like Annie who make this old world a better place to live in.

I've got my fluorescent lights going again over my seed planters, and last year did so well with them. I have a 4-foot light fixture and use day and night tubes. The seed germinated well and such nice sturdy plants resulted.

I am trying elephant garlic. Have 2 rows 10 feet long, and they are up already. This type of garlic isn't so strong and makes all kinds of meat and game taste so good.

My multiplying onions are doing fine. I am thinning them out and using the ones pulled for green onions.

I manage to keep busy each day, and it seems the days are not long enough as I never get done all I had planned for that day. I never get lonely as I'm too busy for that.

I am having the lattice over the patio covered with heavy clear plastic so it won't be so wet as from now on we can expect winter rains.

**NOW COMES** the part of this rambling that I just hardly

know how to write. At the last monthly visit to my doctor, he said, "Pappy, you just have to realize you have had it, and you must cut down on so much work. So it is with a sad heart that I must tell you this will be my last Western Notes. I've written them for over nine years, and OZARK GARDENS has always been a welcome visitor to my home. I know I'll miss the many friendly letters I receive, and the nice things you dear readers have said about me. Please don't forget Pappy; it will help a lot to hear from you all now and then.

May the good Lord take a liking to you, and remember what I always say. "Look to the sun, and the shadows will always be behind you." *Vya con dios* (God be with you).

## 'D' CELL CATALYSTS

Report from Mrs. B. L. Kansas City: "By using the 'D' Cell Catalyst in charging the water used in sprouting beans and wheat seeds, I found I did not have to change the water every day. The sprouts did not sour so I did not have to eat all the sprouts each day. Also found that with the 'D' Cell water does not have to be changed at all. The sprouts stay fresh all the time and have a much better flavor! Also found it is wonderful for my African violets and other house-plants!"

EACH CATALYST \$1

**HILARY M. DOREY**

12 Arnold Ave.

Newport, R. I. 02842

## Green Thumb Tip

Seeds to sow upon the snow include those of such annual flowers as poppies and cornflowers and one vegetable—spinach. Of course the spinach won't be planted in a neat row, but what difference does that make if you have extra-early greens to eat?



**DECK THE HALLS,** and rooms, of your home this Yuletide season.

Gardeners are especially adept at creating decorations, especially with arrangements of pine cones, evergreen boughs or dried flowers. Here are some suggestions for interesting decorations.

**WALL TREE:** For most of us Christmas just isn't without a room-sized tree, although it usually takes up space badly needed for holiday entertaining.

A happy, and unusual, solution to the dilemma is a space-saving wall tree. Make one by stringing evergreen roping from a large hook in a picture molding to a wood T-frame backed with felt and secured to the baseboard. Make the tree as high as you wish; regardless of height it will not jut out from the wall more than 6 to 8 inches, depending upon the kind of greens used for roping.

Make your own roping from evergreen clippings, or purchase roping from a florist. The number of ropes you will need depends upon how full you want the tree to be and upon how thick the roping is.

Lights may be strung on the wall tree. Fire-proof the greens as a safety measure.

**CHRISTMAS STAR,** made from plant labels: You need a 6-inch cardboard disk, 3 sizes of wooden plant labels (six 8-

# Decorations For Christmas Cheer

inch, 12 6-inch, 12 4-inch) and a tube of model cement.

A paper disk on which guide lines are drawn is used to position the 8-inch labels. Cement them in place, then space small labels between. Glue some labels flat; others on edge. Leave natural or spray on a color or apply glitter.

**CHRISTMAS BELLS,** made from clay pots: Paint 2½ or 3-inch pots inside and out with the color of your choice. Take graduated lengths of cable cord and put knot in one end, leaving a bit of cord to hold the clapper. String cord through hole in pot. The knot holds the pot in place. At end of cord glue a clapper made from a small styrofoam ball. Suspend finish-

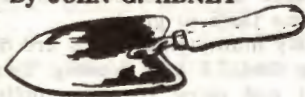
ed bells from a hook in ceiling or doorway.

**CONE WREATHS:** Using a 4-wire box type wreath ring, stuffing it with sphagnum moss and tying it securely with string gives the basic form. Cones are wired around the outside. Use smaller cones toward the inside. Smaller items may be glued to the ring but heavy cones should be wired. For a nice finish, spray wreath with clear spray or a transparent pearl.

The rings also can be used with greens without using the moss by taking a handful of cut greens about 5 inches long and wiring them securely around the ring.

## GLIMPSES OF GARDENING

By JOHN G. ADNEY



**THE SEASON** of holidays is at hand and the Adney household is busily preparing for the Big One - - Christmas!

This time of years means the indoor gardening season is in full swing—on windowsill, under lights or in the greenhouse. As an apartment dweller for almost two years now, my gardening has been limited to the windowsill.

Many plants are growing—cacti and succulents, begonias, African violets, geraniums, ivy—on practically all windowsills. Space is at a premium.

The day when our home in Savanna, Ill. (where we lived 4 years before moving to Freeport almost 2 years ago) is sold, we will buy a house here or in the nearby countryside and really begin gardening again.

I had just gotten roses, lilies of all kinds and other plants growing well when we pulled up stakes and came to Freeport. I miss those glorious outdoor gardening days—the beautiful and fragrant blooms and delicious vegetables and fruits.

This has been a fine year for my cacti (I have 50 or so plants). I had a great deal more in bloom and, for the first time, not a single one spent the summer outdoors as there was no place to put them.

**THE HOLIDAY SEASON** at our house started on Thanksgiving Day when the five Ad-

*continued*



# GLIMPSES OF GARDENING

*continued*

neys piled into the family stationwagon and drove to near Morrison, Ill., for a big family gathering with Pat's folks.

Pat was raised on a farm, which her father still operates. The kids enjoy the farm, and so do I as it gives me a wonderful opportunity to commune with nature. There are always deer, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, some wild turkey and many birds which do not feel compelled to fly South for the winter.

The kids, of course, love the farm animals—and go wild over the cats!

**PAT AND I** have been busy with Yule shopping—early, for a change. We've found some great bargains in toys for our three youngsters and the little nieces and nephews. This should be a big year for the toy-loving kids.

We will be busy right up to the last minute, picking out gifts for mom and dad, brother and sister, nephews and nieces (have I missed anyone?) And Pat, of course, will be very busy in the kitchen.

**WE WILL WELCOME** Christmas by attending Midnight Mass at Grace Episcopal Church, then will make our way home for an all-too-short sleep, to be awakened by the children's happy cries: "Santa Claus has been here!"

**THE MEN'S** Garden Clubs of America has named President Lyndon B. Johnson an honorary member in recognition of his efforts toward nationwide beautification.

Upon receiving formal notification of this action, Mr. Johnson sent the following letter to Phil Conrat of Webster Groves, Mo., MGCA president:

"Mrs. Johnson and I wish to thank you and those you represent for the specially designed plaque you so kindly sent to us. We are honored and compli-

## Lily Lore

By MRS. DAVID R. BIRCH  
548 N. Rosedale  
Tulsa, Okla. 74127

**LILY BULBS** that arrive after the ground has frozen may be stored, unopened, in the refrigerator. They should be planted as soon as the ground thaws. Give them a good soaking as a dry freeze will damage them.

Another way to handle bulbs is to set them in large pots. Use regular potting mixture. Set them in the darkest, coolest spot in the green house, bury them in a coldframe, or set them in a corner of the garage and cover with soil, pine needles or wet peatmoss. Spread plastic or canvas over this to hold in moisture. Check regularly to see that they don't dry out.

When you see roots growing through the hole in the bottom of the pot you may move them in'o warmth and light. Gradually water as for other perennials and they should be blooming before those planted outdoors are even coming up.

Mine were in bloom at Easter.

Set outdoors after danger of frost is past, using recommended planting depth. Give plenty of water.

**LILY GROWERS** know that the normal lily seed, no matter the species, contains a rod or bar-like body that shows as a shadow in transmitted light. This is the embryonic, primordial stage of the future lily and assures that the seed is viable and, if seed is kept in a tightly closed container in the refrigerator, will remain so for years. I have planted such

ment by your thoughtful gesture and hope you will convey our appreciation to all who had a part in this presentation. With our cordial good wishes to all members of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, (signed) Lyndon B. Johnson."

seed after 6 years and gotten good germination.

A good way to check seed is to spread them on a pane of glass and hold them over a light. Those with a rod are the viable ones.

**SOME GROWERS** soak the seed in water for a week, changing the water daily and, the last 2 hours, putting them in a Chlorox solution mixed as for removing mildew.

Dry on a paper towel and mix with milled sphagnum moss. Now fill a flat to within 2 inches of the top with potting mixture and add one inch vermiculite. Make furrows in the mixture, sow seeds and cover with sphagnum or vermiculite. Water with a hose adjusted to a fine mist. Cover with plastic or several sheets of newspaper and set in a warm spot. Check daily and when germination starts, remove the cover.

This is a good method and gets plants off to a fast start. I have also used this method on lupins and other hard-shelled seeds and it worked fine.

I plan to try it on peony seeds this winter. I will soak them for a week, plant in a flat and keep in a warm place for one month, then set outdoors for another month, then bring indoors, hoping for germination. If I can get a plant to put up 2 or 3 leaves, I will have shortened blooming time by one year.

**THIS HAS** nothing to do with lilies but I will tell you about it anyway. Have you ever seen the night-blooming Cereus in bloom? My plant is now several years old and the most blossoms it yielded were 12. This year we set it under a pear tree in the middle of the patio. The number of blooms kept increasing until it reached 12. Then the buds popped out all over. I counted 38.

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**ORCHID SPECIAL** Send \$7.50 for blooming size, one Cattleya, one Oncidium, one Epidendrum, ppd., with instructive list; without order, 25c for list. **HOUSE OF KNOWLES**, 275 N. W. 63rd Ave., Miami, Fla. 33126 (12)

**ORCHID CULTURE FREE** with 6 hybrid cattleya front lead divisions, or 6 species assorted. Bijoliate cattleya Epidendrum, Oncidiums, Dendrobium, \$11.50 postpaid. **HARDIN S. FOSTER**, P. O. Box 712-OG, Auburndale, Fla. 33823. (2)

## CACTI & SUCCULENTS

**EXTENSIVE COLLECTION** of cacti and other succulents, wholesale and retail. Stamp brings list. **CACTUS RANCH**, P. O. Box 82-OG, Morristown, Ariz. 85342. (2)

**ASSORTED CACTI** and succulents. List for free stamp. **PHILLIPS CACTUS SHOP**, Rt. 2, Box 137A, Lountze, Texas. 77625. (1)

## GARDENING AIDS

**"D" CELL WATER CATALYSTS**—Bring new life to yourself, your pets and your plants through the miraculous D-Cell Catalyst that purifies water and charges it with white light energy. One No. 2 white catalyst will charge many gallons of tap water for drinking, treating seeds or watering plants. \$1 each. Information and testimonials for 25c and stamped, self-addressed envelope. **HILARY M. DOREY**, 12 Arnold Ave., Newport, R. I. 02842. (1)

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**MAKE PROFITS SEWING AT HOME!** There's "gold" in your sewing machine! Interesting, profitable! Every housewife should experiment with ways and means of earning sparetime income! Best markets and prices, details 5c stamp. **ARCANE MART**, 2625-OG N. Gettysburg Ave., Dayton, Ohio. 45406. (12)

**WANT ADS COST LITTLE**

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**SPECIAL!**—All ads, classified or display, will be inserted 4 times for the price of 3. (Ad copy cannot be changed.)

**DEADLINE**—The 5th of the month preceding publication. **PAYABLE IN ADVANCE** by cash, money order or check. **FREE** 30-word classified ad given for new subscriptions or renewals.

## HOME & GREENHOUSE PLANTS

**COLLECTOR'S GERANIUMS**—Fancy-leaved, Lady Washingtons, dwarfs. Catalog 10c. **SEEDS** 2 packets \$1. **ROAD RUNNER RANCH**, 2458 Catalina Ave., Vista, Calif. 92083. (3)

**SALE**—Ten geranium cuttings, all colors, many kinds, \$1. Five sedums, 5 succulents, \$1. Twenty cuttings, my choice of varieties, \$1.75. Postage on each order 15c or on all 3 orders prepaid. **RACHEL'S PLANT NURSERY**, 816 Maple, Truth or Consequences, N. M. 89701. (12)

**BOUGANVILLIAS**, Tropical Hibiscus, Oleanders, unusual vines, plants, Water Lotus and lilies. Various prices. Free plant in every order. Send stamped envelope for list. **LOYCE'S FLOWERS**, Rt. 2, Box 11, Granbury, Texas 76048. (12)

**JASMINES**—Grand Duke, Pubescens, night-blooming, Confederate; Clerodendron vine, red or white blooms, tender, 50c each. 25c postage \$1 and under; over, 40c. Free list. **MRS. R. C. WELSH**, 1118 Idlewild Dr., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301. (2)

**CRYPTANTHUS ACAULUS RUBRA**—nice color. 5 for \$1.00. **Bromelia balansae**, \$1.00 each. **Ajuga (atropurpurea)**, blue flowers, bronze leaves, 5 for \$1.00. 20c postage on each \$1.00 order. **Wm. J. Kirk**, 5711 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, Fla. 33611 (12)

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**WANT ADS COST LITTLE**





# MERRY CHRISTMAS

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*The Home Gardener's*

## PLANT

# DOCTOR

As house plants get older, they usually grow tall and spindly. In order to retain a more compact shape and size, it is necessary to cut them back drastically. This will maintain some plants for a long period of time but makes one feel guilty about the parts cut off. As a rule these tips are discarded. On such types as Colours, Impatiens, Ivy, Geraniums, Begonias, and other soft stemmed varieties of indoor plants, these tops of plants and tips of branches that are too big, can be an excellent source of new young plants.

Making a cutting, as these cut parts are called, is very easy. All that is needed is a rooting medium. It is possible to get some varieties to root in a small glass of water. In this method a colored glass is desirable to shade the rooting areas in the water. Two weeks is the average time for the cutting to show little white hair roots on its stem. When roots are about ½ inch long the plant should be carefully potted in a good potting soil. Kept watered as needed the infant plant is ready to grow up to its regular size.

A better method, if a dozen or more cuttings are involved, is to use a small cigar box or similar container, of clean, sharp sand, or, as I prefer, a mixture of sand and peat moss. Sand dries out very rapidly and unless given constant watering, may dry out too much. Too dry a rooting medium will result in the loss of the cuttings. Since peat acts like a sponge in absorbing water and gradually releases it as the sand dries out, it is possible to maintain even moisture around the cuttings

to be rooted with a minimum of care.

In selecting cuttings, or slips as they are sometimes called, take a 3 or 4 inch piece from the top or tips of the branches. Remove the lower leaves for a distance of 1½ to 2 inches. With the box of sand, or sand and peat moss prepared, use a pencil or other pointed object to make holes about 1 inch apart each way and insert 1½ inches of the cutting in the hole. Firmly press the sand around the stem of each one. Sand should be moist this operation so that the hole does not fill up when the point is withdrawn. On a larger scale you can use a knife to make a trench in the box lengthwise. Place cuttings 1 inch apart in this slit and firm in place. Repeat operation for next row, 1 inch to the side of the first one, and so on till the flat is full. Cuttings started in this way, using a box, will usually be ready to plant into pots in 3 or 4 weeks. They will look a little wilted for the first few days and should be shaded for the first week. After two weeks it is permissible to peek at 1 or 2 to see if the roots have started. As long as the cuttings do not wilt completely or dry up, your prospects for a successful crop are excellent. When well rooted, transplant into small pots small pots and into larger pots as the plant increases in size. Start with 2 or 2½ inch pots and move into 3 or 4 inch in about three months. Pinching out the growing tip of young plants will induce a lush side growth on the types that normally grow side branches. This makes for a short, compact plant. Later on pinch the side branches also for a denser growth. Your plants will then have that greenhouse grown look that everyone admires.

## Bird Hospital Happenings

By MARY O'NEIL  
Wellsville, Kansas

IF YOU can imagine a little bird going through a hay baler and coming out alive, you will enjoy my latest patient.

It is a sparrow of some kind. So far, I'm not sure. At first I thought it was a grasshopper sparrow. Now it has white feathers in its throat and tiny streaks are appearing on the buff breast, so now I wonder just what it is.

Patient is doing well, and is

very tame. It just flew over to my shoulder and is trying to remove my earring. It is happy and contented in a cage, so I shall not release him.

I also have a horned lark which is as tame and interesting as the sparrow.

I HAVE BEEN concerned about the scarcity of birds around my place and believe this is due to the poisons people throw around so carelessly.

I failed to save a robin this week. It had been poisoned.

I wish people would wake up to the danger of so much spraying. The danger is not faced by wildlife only, but by humans, too!

(This column was lost in the mail and was received only recently.—JGA.)

**Plant  
and Beautify  
Your City**



# Flower Ranch News

By  
**MRS. HATTIE H. DAVIDSON**  
Route 1, Box 204  
West Palm Beach, Florida

**WE RETURNED HOME** the first of October after spending three weeks in the Smokey Mountains of western North Carolina. On all our motor trips my husband does the driving while I read the road maps. Since this is not a constant job I have plenty of opportunity to take in the scenery as we drive along.

On our Florida Parkway and the Interstate highway through Georgia, there is always a good ground cover along the road shoulders with trees in the backgrounds. A few billboards are present but not enough to obstruct the natural view.

It is driving through the small towns and in the mountains that one sees lots of color in the summer flower gardens. I made some notes and was surprised at the great variety of flowers spotted here and there. In one small front yard, I saw lotus blooming in a tiny pool. These are rare. I had some once long ago in a lily pool.

Often I noticed low growing purple verberna between footpath and the edge of pavement. Also along the road edge I discovered three distinct species of morning glory. The weeping willow is surely a favorite tree. We saw so many in North Georgia; also sycamore, China berry, pecan, black walnut. In North Carolina there were miles and miles of apple orchards. In the high places in the Smokies, the mountain ash (Rowan) is a tree of great splendor, with bunches of scarlet berries, always brilliant in sun or shade. I've never seen the blossom but the red fruit is gorgeous.

**IN FLOWER GARDENS**, usually in front of many small homes, we saw the colored annuals. There were cosmos, sal-

via, red castor bean, amaranthus (in several species with the Red Princess Feather most prominent) and dahlias in all colors and sizes.

There were rose gardens, too. One terraced yard I recall was banked up with logs—there must have been six or eight elevations—each one perhaps 8 or 10 feet wide. It was just a riot of color—marigolds, cosmos, salvia and cannas in several shades. Most likely there were other plants but viewing this while driving past, I felt lucky to take it in as quickly as I did. This place was on the side of a mountain in a wooded area along a curving road.

On some porches I spotted huge containers of hens and chickens (*sempervivum*). These always fascinate me. It is the one succulent almost im-

possible to grow down here. Another flower which will not bloom for me is lycoris, and I saw many of these, the variety called Surprise Lily.

**NOW TO ADD** a few lines about Flower Ranch. We found everything in good order upon our return. There had been a few light showers while we were away so even the plants in pots survived. The pine trees do shed a lot in the fall and therefore, plants and pots were heavily blanketed with pine needles.

All the potted things from the slat house shelves had been deeply set in moist shavings before we went away. These fared well with the covering of pine straw. It has been a big job to return them all to the slat house, first cleaning the shelves and trays. I always enjoy that type of housework. I've put back all the hanging baskets, but later on will have to repot those which need new soil.

**BEFORE CLOSING**, I want to add Christmas wishes from the Davidsons.



## The Home Gardener's BIRTHDAY CLUB

**MAKE BIRTHDAYS** more fun by joining OG's Birthday Club. Shower honorees with cards, letters or items of their hobby interests. The club is open free of charge to all subscribers. Non-subscribers may be listed for 25c. Listing will appear the month of your birthday. (Note: BD means birthday).

**VON VOLPE**, 1350 Avon St., Youngstown, Ohio 44505, BD Dec. 29. Interested in cacti and succulents, tropical plants, birds, bird houses and dogs.

**MRS. CLARA LANTZY**, 1320 North Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y. 14305. BD Jan. 8, 1885. Likes houseplants of all kinds, crocheting and all kinds of pets. She is a semi-shutin and would

appreciate pen pals. (Listing was sent in by a friend, Mrs. J. Collins of Mountain View, Mo.)

**MRS. LAURA WOODRICK**, Rt. 2, Box 194, Elroy, Wis. 53929. BD Dec. 27, 1899. Interested in iris and houseplants in general, especially African violets, begonias, cacti and geraniums.

**MISS LIDA SMITH**, Box 54, Yuma, Mich. 49669. BD Sept. 28, 1891. Raises African violets, cacti. Wants pen pals. (Her listing arrived too late for publishing at the proper time.)

**W. C. BUTLER**, 10 Montrose St., Roxbury, Mass. 02119. BD Dec. 6, 1890. A landscape gardener, he likes roses, geraniums, rubber plants. Also collects old coins and stamps.



# CACTUS Tidbits

BY **T. C. LEOPOLD**

Rt. 1, Box 227  
Fairview, Pa. 16115

**THIS MONTH'S TIDBITS** is given over to poems received for this Christmas issue of OG. Here they are:

## MY CHRISTMAS CACTUS

My Christmas Cactus plant has been with me many, many years,  
Bringing me joy at every Christmas time.  
Each spring I take it out and put it under my favorite maple tree,  
To enjoy God's fresh air, sun and rain.  
It sits there all summer long, And blends with nature's lovely song.  
Then as autumn's breezes start to blow,  
My Christmas cactus seems to know  
It's time to be brought indoors again,  
To rest awhile and then bring forth  
Its lovely rose color blossoms  
To adorn a little table on Christmas Morn.

—Mrs. Joe Dobay

Rt. 2, Burton, Ohio 44021

## CHRISTMAS CACTUS

Christmas cactus had a special meaning  
Before I was very old,  
That was the special highlight time,  
A beautiful sight to behold!

My mother grew a shelf of

flowers,  
Each one pretty as they come,  
But the cactus hung above the shelf  
Prized as the very special one.

In Northern Minnesota was the place,  
So cold their wintry days,  
And how we watched the budding time  
Of the beautiful cactus sprays.

Little by little its beauty unfurled,  
Controlled by God's own Hand  
Each bud bursting to an open glory  
The most gorgeous pink in all the land.

The contrast of beauty and the bitter cold  
Made it a possession so rare;  
We enjoyed every phase of it,  
Such beauty yet to compare.

I'll never forget this floral piece,  
From the sign of the bud to the bloom.

Our lot wasn't of the abundant stock

But we had a treasure that filled the room.

—Bonnie Mountford,  
7223 E. Dinwiddie St.,  
Downey, Calif. 90241

## I AM A CHRISTMAS CACTUS

My home was way up in a tree,  
Happy I am that someone found me  
For I was so high no one could see  
That I bloomed with the Christmas tree,  
For I was told I could only bloom  
At Christmas time in your room.

I wait the whole year through  
Just to be there it's true,  
So God elt me wait to portray  
That Christmastime is someone's birthday.

Why do I bloom on Christmas Day?

It's because of baby Jesus' birthday, some say!

—Ted Leopold

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS** to one and all!

It's smart to read the Ads.



**A NEW** column for readers' favorite recipes is introduced this month. If you have a recipe of interest to gardeners, using herbs, fruits or vegetables from your garden, please send them. Our first recipe concerns a very special kind of candy for the holiday season.

## CHOCOLATE-CANDIED APPLES

Boil together one cup honey, one cup sugar, one-half cup water and one-fourth teaspoon salt for a few minutes, for the syrup.

Wash, core and pare 3 tart, firm apples; cut into half-moon shaped pieces about one-half thick. Drop into syrup, cook rapidly until apples are transparent and practically all the syrup is absorbed. Lift onto waxed paper to dry.

Break up cake chocolate made especially for dipping candies and put into shallow dish over hot water. As soon as chocolate begins to soften remove from hot water and stir until melted. Dip pieces of apple into melted chocolate until well coated. Place on waxed paper to dry. Pack in layers between sheets of waxed paper.

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## HELEN'S CACTUS

2205 Mirasol,  
Brownsville, Tex.  
78520



# Use Ivy for Wonderful Winter Green

**FOR FASCINATING** foliage patterns this winter, grow English ivy and members of its family.

The ivies are surely among the most graceful of vining plants. They are attractive grown in a pot with a trellis or a piece of twisted wood to climb on, or in a low bowl where the tendrils can trail downward.

Ivy grows either in water or in soil. The standard English Ivy is semi-hardy and can be grown outdoors all winter where weather is relatively mild.

The ivies mentioned here are varieties of *Hedera helix* (English ivy), *Hedera* being the Latin word for ivy. All are intended primarily for growing indoors as houseplants.

**GOOD ONES** to try are:

**English ivy** — Parent vine from which horticulturists have developed many varieties of less hardy character.

**Sylvanian Beauty** — Leaves are somewhat smaller than standard English ivy and much more closely spaced. It is distinctive in looks due to its prominent veins.

**Hahn's Self-Branching** — It is noted for its habit of sending out side branches freely, giving it a full and bushy appearance.

**Cordata** — A longtime favorite, *H. helix cordata* has heart-shaped leaves with softly rounded contours, compact growth habit.

**Weber's California** — One of the daintier varieties, it is appealing in a dish garden or terrarium to obtain the effect of a miniature.

**Maple Queen** — Quite similar in appearance to Sylvanian Beauty, it has full, waxy foliage rather prominently veined. Self-branching, it grows slowly.

**H. conglomerata** — Commonly called Japanese ivy, it grows very slowly and is often used in dish gardens because of its upright growth habit, small and closely spaced foliage on a woody stem, which make it resemble a very old vine in miniature.

**Manda's Crested** — A crinkly foliage type which grows in bushy shape and when mature,

vines out attractively on reddish stems. Other ivies with crinkly foliage include *H. crisata*, or Curillocks.

**Variegated Canary Islands ivy** (*H. caraniensis variegata*) — It is probably the most well-known of the variegated types, with cream-colored leaves having gray-green areas in the center portion. An effective indoor ivy, it is better adapted than most to hot, dry atmospheres, and one of the showiest to grow in a moss-stick planting.

Other popular variegated types are **Glacier**, from California, one of the handsomest with leaves of an unusual shade of gray-green, nicely marked with white, and **Gold Dust**, which has golden-yellow mottlings on its dark green leaves.

**BRIGHT LIGHT**, but not direct sun, is necessary for growth and health of ivies. A common reason for failure is poor light which causes leaf drop and, finally, death.

Use a well-drained soil, rich in organic matter. Do not allow the soil to become severely dry, but do not overwater. Best growth results when soil is slightly moist at all times and temperatures stay within the 50-70 degree range.

**TO START** a new plant, cut off a stem end 4 or 5 inches long. Remove a few bottom leaves and insert in water, sand, vermiculite or perlite. In a few weeks, roots will have grown big enough so cutting may be transferred to standard potting mixture.

The best time to make cuttings is in spring and summer.

**INCLUDE IVY** in a dish garden, for contrast with tall plants. Combine it with bright, red geraniums in a planter that just fits your kitchen window ledge. Grow it in water in a dark green or amber bottle that disguises roots. Set pots in a basket with a handle to serve as a trellis. Or train it to climb on a moss-stick support to any height you like.



*Christmas*



*Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!  
Christmas in lands of the fir-tree and pine,  
Christmas in lands of the palm-tree and vine;  
Christmas where snow-peaks stand solemn and  
white,  
Christmas where corn-fields lie sunny and  
bright.*

Phillips Brooks



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